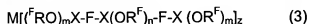
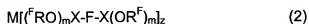
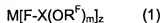


Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for preparing salts of weakly coordinating anions of the type corresponding to the following formula (1), (2) or (3):



wherein, in a first step an organyl compound of an element XR_m is reacted with a partially or completely fluorinated alcohol FROH in an organic, aprotic solvent and then, in a second step, the resulting alkoxy compound of the element $X(OR^F)_m$ is reacted with a suitable fluoride salt M_yY_z so as to abstract a fluoride ion, if necessary under XF_m -catalysis, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Ga, In, P, As and Sb,

M is a monovalent or bivalent cation,

m is 3 or 5 and

n is 2, if m is 3, and/or

n is 4, if m is 5,

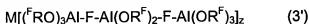
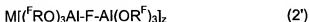
y is 1 or 2, provided that, if y is 1, Y is a monovalent anion,

or if y is 2, Y is a bivalent anion, and

z is 1 or 2, provided that, if z is 1, M is a monovalent cation,

or if z is 2, M is a bivalent cation.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 for the production of salts of weakly coordinating anions of the type corresponding to the following formula (1'), (2') or (3'):



wherein, in a first step an aluminum triorganyl compound AlR_m is reacted with a partially or completely fluorinated alcohol FROH in an organic, aprotic solvent, and then, in a

second step, the resulting aluminum trialkoxy compound $\text{Al}(\text{OR}^{\text{F}})_3$ is reacted with a tetrafluoroborate salt $\text{M}(\text{BF}_4)_z$, if necessary, under BF_3 -catalysis.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the aluminum trialkoxy compound $\text{Al}(\text{OR}^{\text{F}})_3$ is reacted with the tetrafluoroborate salt $\text{M}(\text{BF}_4)_z$ at a ratio of 1:1, if z is 1, or is reacted at a ratio of 2:1, if z is 2.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the aluminum trialkoxy compound $\text{Al}(\text{OR}^{\text{F}})_3$ is reacted with the tetrafluoroborate salt $\text{M}(\text{BF}_4)_z$ at a ratio of 2:1, if z is 1, or is reacted at a ratio of 4:1, if z is 2.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the organic, aprotic solvent is selected from the group consisting of pentane, hexane, heptane, octane, benzene, toluene, cresol, chlorobenzene and trichlorobenzene.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein R is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, i-butyl, t-butyl, phenyl and tolyl.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein R^{F} is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, partially or completely fluorinated C_1 to C_{10} alkyl groups, partially or completely fluorinated C_6 to C_{20} aryl groups, and partially or completely fluorinated C_3 to C_{10} cycloalkyl groups.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein, if z is 1, M is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal ions, In^+ , Ti^+ , Ag^+ , Cu^+ , NR'_4^+ , PR'_4^+ , wherein R' is, independently in each case, hydrogen, a linear or branched C_1 to C_{20} -alkyl radical or substituted or unsubstituted aryl

radical, and imidazolium, or, if z is 2, M is selected from the group consisting of Ni^{2+} , Cu^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Pd^{2+} , Rh^{2+} , and Pt^{2+} .

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein, in a first step, the aluminum triorganyl compound AlMe_3 is reacted with a partially or completely fluorinated alcohol $^{\text{F}}\text{ROH}$ in pentane at a ratio of 1:3 and then, in a second step, the resulting aluminum trialkoxy compound $\text{Al}(\text{OR}^{\text{F}})_3$ is reacted with tetrafluoroborate salt $\text{M}(\text{BF}_4)_z$ at a ratio of 1:1, if z is 1, or at a ratio of 2:1, if z is 2, to yield a compound corresponding to formula (1') above.

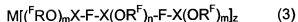
10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein, in a first step, the aluminum triorganyl compound AlMe_3 is reacted with a partially or completely fluorinated alcohol $^{\text{F}}\text{ROH}$ in pentane at a ratio of 1:3 and, then in a second step, the resulting aluminum trialkoxy compound $\text{Al}(\text{OR}^{\text{F}})_3$ is reacted with tetrafluoroborate salt $\text{M}(\text{BF}_4)_z$ at a ratio of 2:1, if z is 1, or at a ratio of 4:1, if z is 2, to yield a compound corresponding to formula (2') above.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein, in a first step, the aluminum triorganyl compound AlMe_3 is reacted with a partially or completely fluorinated alcohol $^{\text{F}}\text{ROH}$ in heptane at a ratio of 1:3 and then, in a second step, the resulting aluminum trialkoxy compound $\text{Al}(\text{OR}^{\text{F}})_3$ is reacted with tetrafluoroborate salt $\text{M}(\text{BF}_4)_z$ at a ratio of 2:1 if z is 1, or at a ratio of 4:1, if z is 2, to yield a compound corresponding to formula (3') above.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 11~~ claim 9, wherein M is Ag^+ or NBu_4^+ and R^{F} is $(\text{F}_3\text{C})_3\text{C}$.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 12~~ claim 10 wherein M is Ag^+ or NBu_4^+ and R^{F} is $(\text{F}_3\text{C})_3\text{C}$.

14. (Original) Salts of weakly coordinating anions corresponding to formula (3):



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Ga, In, P, As and Sb,

M is a monovalent or bivalent cation,

m is 3 or 5 and

n is 2, if m is 3, and/or

n is 4, if m is 5,

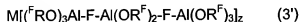
z is 1 or 2, provided that, if z is 1, M is a monovalent anion,

and/or if z is 2, M is a bivalent anion, and

wherein, if z is 1, M is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal ions, In^+ , Ti^+ , Ag^+ , Cu^+ , NR'_4^+ , PR'_4^+ , wherein R' is, independently in each case, hydrogen, a linear or branched C_1 to C_{20} -alkyl radical or substituted or unsubstituted aryl radical, and imidazolium, or, if z is 2, M is selected from the group consisting of Ni^{2+} , Cu^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Pd^{2+} , Rh^{2+} , and Pt^{2+} , and R^F is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, partially or completely fluorinated C_1 to C_{10} alkyl groups, partially or completely fluorinated C_6 to C_{20} aryl groups, and partially or completely fluorinated C_3 to C_{10} cycloalkyl groups.

15. (Original) The salts of weakly coordinating anions according to claim 14, represented

by the formula (3'):



wherein z, M and R^F are as defined above.

16. (Currently Amended) The salts according to claim 14 [[or 15]], wherein M is Ag^+ or NBu_4^+ and R^F is $(\text{F}_3\text{C})_3\text{C}$.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Original) An alkoxy compound of an element, represented by formula (4):



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Ga, In, P, As and Sb,

m is 3 or 5 and

R^F is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, partially or completely fluorinated C_1 to C_{10} alkyl groups, partially or completely fluorinated C_6 to C_{20} aryl groups, and partially or completely fluorinated C_3 to C_{10} cycloalkyl groups.

19. (Original) The alkoxy compound of an element according to claim 18, wherein X is Al.

20. (New) A method according to claim 11 wherein M is Ag^+ or NBu_4^+ and R^F is $(F_3C)_3C$.